Joseph Hume

March 22. 1841.

Corn Laws.

To A. A. Phelps Esq.
Boston

London March 22. 1841.

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Sir

I have the honor herewith to inclose a Copy of Resolutions agreed to at a Meeting of Members of the British Parliament, and sanctioned by upwards of One hundred and twenty of that body.

The Subject of Free Trade and the extension of our Commercial relations with the rest of the World, by simplifying our Tariff, and thus leading other Nations, by such an Example, to cooperate with us for the attainment of so important and so desireable an object, has lately engaged much of the public attention in this Country; and the general feeling manifested in favor of such changes, will, we confidently hope, soon induce the Government and Legislature to take the proper Steps for carrying out extensive Measures of Commercial Reform.

The Report of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, with the Evidence given before it on the Subject of Import Duties, in the last Session of Parliament, has been chiefly instrumental in producing a state of public Opinion favorable to a more liberal Commercial Policy, by clearly proving that the Restrictions & Prohibitions of the present Commercial Code of the British Empire, are in the highest degree prejudicial to the best interests of the Nation — allow me, therefore, as the late Chairman of that Committee, to forward to you a Copy of that Report & Evidence, and to request the favor of your most earnest Consideration for it.

The liberal Course recommended by the Committee, will be found applicable to the Wants of all Countries; & in a Matter so deeply interesting to the Peace of the World, & to the prosperity of Nations, I venture to hope for your Zealous support, in the Conviction that the enlightened friends of Free Trade may be appealed to with peculiar propriety at the present moment; & that a vigorous & simultaneous movement in the different parts of the Commercial & Civilized World cannot fail to be attended with most important and beneficial results.

I send you, also, a Copy of the last report of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in which the Opinions of the Merchants & Manufacturers of that great Commercial Community are strongly and favorably expressed.

Public Meetings of the Merchants & Inhabitants of Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Bolton, Ashton, and many other Cities and towns, have already been held where Resolutions have been agreed to warmly approving of the Course recommended by the Select Committee and by the Meeting of Members of Parliament.

It will give me much Satisfaction if you will favor me with any Suggestions likely to forward the great Object we have in View; and, on my part, I shall be most happy to supply any information which you may deem it desireable to obtain, and which it may be in my power to afford. I have the honor to remain

Your Obedient & humble Servant

Joseph Hume